

WHEN YOU HAVE TRULY FORGIVEN

Jer 31 ³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

When we have been hurt deeply forgiveness requires more than just saying “Ok I forgive”. It requires a **process**.

I. THE COMMAND TO FORGIVE

Mat 6 ¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵ But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

- A. Our own forgiveness is tied to forgiving others.
- B. A common mistake is to forgive from the head and not the heart because of our desire to fulfill this scripture and to get on with our life.
- C. The **blessing** of forgiveness is **we are forgiven** when we forgive others.
- D. The **penalty** of not forgiving others is **we remain guilty** before God.

Mat 18 ³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

E. Forgiveness must come from the heart. (The center of our emotions)

II. THE CONTINUANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Mat 18 ²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, **how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?** till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until **seventy times seven.**

A. The truth in this verse is the offender may never change.
Therefore we are to continue to extend forgiveness. What God demands of you he himself does by example. Psa 103 “who forgives all our iniquities.”

B. Forgive when it is ask for and when it isn't

1. When it is ask for

Luk 17³ Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. ⁴ And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

2. When it isn't ask for

Jesus and Stephen prayed “Father forgive them...”

No command to forgive is given if it is not possible to fulfill it.

III. THE COMPLETION OF FORGIVENESS

God gives us an example of how forgiveness is completed.

Jer 31 34 saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Remember means the following:

2142 זָכַר , זָכָר , מִזְכֵּיר [*zakar / zaw·kar /*] v . A primitive root; TWOT 551 ; GK 2349 and 2350 and 4654 ; 233 occurrences; AV translates as “remember” 172 times, “**mention**” 21 times, “remembrance” 10 times, “**recorder**” nine times, “mindful” six times, “think” three times, “bring to remembrance” twice, “record” twice, and translated miscellaneously eight times. **1** to remember, recall, call to mind. 1a (Qal) to remember, recall. 1b (Niphal) to be brought to remembrance, be remembered, be thought of, be brought to mind. 1c (Hiphil). *1c1* to cause to remember, remind. *1c2* to cause to be remembered, keep in remembrance. *1c3* to mention. *1c4* to record. *1c5* to make a memorial, make remembrance.

By definition we know that we have forgiven completely in the following three ways.

1. **Your heart is clear** and you don't dwell on it.
There is no guilt because of forgiveness.
You have forgiven from your heart, which is a choice.
You have the power to forgive!

2Co 2 4 Now, regarding the one who started all this—the person in question who caused all this pain—I want you to know that I am not the one injured in this as much as, with a few exceptions, all of you. So I don't want to come down too hard. What the majority of you agreed to as punishment is punishment enough. **Now is the time to forgive this man and help him back on his feet. If all you do is pour on the guilt, you could very well drown him in it. My counsel now is to pour on the love.**

The focus of my letter wasn't on punishing the offender but on getting you to take responsibility for the health of the church. So if you forgive him, I forgive him.

2. **You don't control the person with the repeatedly bringing up the same issue from the past.**

You will not allow it to continue to be an "accuser".

Forgiveness has occurred because **you have chosen to love.**

Love covers a multitude of sins!

THE MESSAGE

1Co 13 ... **Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,** Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything,

3. You don't talk to others about the issue.

By definition of forgive in Hebrew "Zakar" meaning "**mention**".

When you speak of the matter you have opened a memory and an emotion that you will continue to deal with.

When a wound is healed don't pick the scab.

The purpose behind forgiving is to restore.

Missionary Jim Elliot said before he was martyred said “A man is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot loose”.

His wife and family returned to that country and had a marvelous harvest. I was watching a Billy Graham program on which Jim Elliot’s son appeared with a strange looking man. The man was the person that killed his father. He had become converted and the Elliot’s grandchildren called him “papa”.

They could have chosen not to forgive and remained a prisoner of bitterness. They chose to love and forgive, thus saving the murderer and reaching others with the testimony of Jesus.

You too can forgive!